



## Cromarty and District Community Council

Approved minutes of meeting held on

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023, 730pm**

Virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person at The Victoria Hall

### Present

**Community Councillors:** Paige Shepherd (PS) - Chairwoman, Alan Plampton (AP) – Treasurer, Peter Ratcliffe (PR) - Secretary, Kari Magee (KM), Andy Thurgood (AT) and Nigel Shapcott (NS).

**Highland Councillor(s):** Sarah Atkin (SA)

**Member(s) of the public:** Sheila Currie – CCDT Secretary (representative) (SC)

**Minute Secretary:** Claire Fraser (CF)

### 1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies from Dominic Scott-Lodge - Youth Member.

PS, PR, AT, SC, SA and AP were all present from The Victoria Hall.

NS, KM and CF attended online via Microsoft Teams.

*Minute Secretary note – CF was having connection issues to Microsoft Teams so PS recorded the first part of the meeting.*

### 11. Any Other Business (brought forward by Chair Woman)

#### 11.1 *Cromarty Community Development Trust (CCDT)*

Everyone welcomed Sheila to the meeting and PS passed to SC to provide an update on CCDT.

Has advised that at least one person from the Development Trust is going to try and attend the monthly meetings to keep the conversation flowing.

#### Cromarty Camping

First paying customer at campsite on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August (open day).

So pleased to have finally got to the opening day, it's been a long time coming! The paperwork has all been complied with, the website is up and running and the official launch date is 1 September 2023.

Newsletter article is going out with links to social media and website, plus posters going up around the town.

2 employees – campsite warden/cleaner. Both doing tremendous work already!  
Signage being done, all legal notices etc will be displayed also.

Next stage is to review the future aims and objectives for the Community Development Trust – and ensure that they are agreed by the community, as the projects carried out are exactly that, to be of benefit to the community.

Working with the C&DCC is a huge part of the aims and objectives so very much looking forward to getting back to how to things used to me.

### **Folk festival**

CCDT – very happy to support.

Happy to provide letter of support If needed, but not entirely sure who's leading the project.

PS confirmed the situation – John Nightingale (as land-owner) wanted backing from CDCC before we take it any further. Now that we have that we can discuss it further (we didn't want to waste any time if he wasn't to be of support). Members will discuss it between themselves in Any Other Business at tonight's meeting.

The board of the CCDT are concerned the community wouldn't benefit from any funds made and so would like there to be some kind of agreement with how the profits are treated etc.

If it's scheduled for September 2024 could it be tied in with the rowing regatta? SC will mention it to them (as a member of this committee also) to gain their thoughts.

As a side note - SC confirmed she's in discussion with John Nightingale re. the adhoc use of the harbour slip for the rowers – as she's aware this is something Ecoventures and Aberdeen University have arranged with him through their lease (via The Lighthouse). Doesn't want to have to amend the lease as this would require solicitors etc, but thinks John is happy to accept the terms via a written letter.

### **East Church**

Don't want to take it over – if someone has to own it via a community asset transfer, it makes sense to be the CCDT but they would like it to be used for something that would benefit the community. This is also what THC have said is the arrangement required to allow a community asset transfer.

NS asked re. the open day in The East Church Hall – SC said there's no update to this yet as all their resources, energy, time etc all went into Cromarty Camping. They had a time limit to spend the money they'd received.

NS expresses the importance to this happening as it's a community asset that's deteriorating and the CCDT need to make this a priority! SC suggested maybe the two organizations could work together - can the CDCC help organize an open day?

AP suggested THC are keen for CATs to happen so that the financial burden can be shifted.

SC will feedback this to CCDT and is aware of the urgency. PS thanked SC and asked her to keep them updated and if there's anything the C&DCC can do, to let us know.

### **Parking orders/Byelaws**

Conversation turned to discussing the parking orders/byelaws in the town (C&DCC members updated SC briefly based on our previous conversations in previous minutes about these). AP advised that we are still awaiting a response from THC re. the best way to introduce them in Cromarty (correspondence dated July 2023) as wanted to tie it in with the campsite opening). Asked SA to chase this up. **Action – SA.**

Furthermore, AP has also found out that the carpark at the end of the links has a parking order on it to prevent anyone parking there for longer than 24 hours, with an additional restriction for vehicles over 1.5 tonnes. This is a good example of a situation when there are parking orders in place but no one knowing anything about it, and no action being taken. This carpark is owned by THC but leased by John Nightingale (lease is about to come up for renewal).

KM also mentioned bringing up the idea of a composting toilet up at The South Sutor Car Park again and wondered if we should mention it to John Nightingale again. Conversation wasn't concluded but can be discussed at a later date. **Action – ALL.**

SC said the toilet and shower block at the campsite will be open if there are customers so there's no reason why residents can't use this if they need to when out walking.

There were no further comments for SC.

*Minute secretary note – CF joined at 20:09pm and Sheila left the meeting at 20:17pm. The recording was stopped by PS.*

## 2. Declarations of interest

No changes to declarations since meeting of 26th October 2020

## 3. Approval of previous minutes, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The minutes were approved by AP and seconded by PR.

## 4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

1. (4.1 – On hold – Waiting for more directions re. TMP in 2025.) **On hold.**
2. (4.2 – To discuss redesign of the Welcome sign for Cromarty via The Youth Café and look at funding options). PS to speak to Wanda re. making it a Youth Café Project. **Action – PS.**
3. (4.3 – To resubmit photos of fly tipping at Whitedykes to THC (more recent reports)). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
4. (4.4 – To discuss action required re. progressing level-crossing system @ Reeds Loop (see May 2022 minutes for full info). Ongoing. **Action – PS/KM.**
5. (4.5 – Awaiting guidance from TSG re. Green Freeport proposals). **Action – ALL.**
6. (4.6 – Potential to involve the Primary School with Links Shrubbery continuous maintenance). **On hold.**
7. (4.7 – Letter for local businesses attached – to be approved). Letter approved at meeting so PS to distribute. Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
8. (4.8 – Planning application fee paid, to apply for re-imburement by Stagecoach). Still to be done – ongoing. **Action – PR.**
9. (4.9 – On hold - finance needed from THC re. Reeds Loop maintenance, but enough in budget just now). Budget is now exhausted. Maintenance to be suspended until funding sought. Discussed further at the meeting so discharged. **Discharged.**
10. (4.10 – Might have to find alternative solution to Victoria Park fence repairs as THC non-responsive). Will be replaced via Kari's Green Fencing Project. **Discharged.**

11. (4.11 – Re-visit our approach for requests re. large events in the future). In discussion again re. the music festival so discharged as no longer relevant. **Discharged.**
12. (4.12 – Still awaiting reports re. major maintenance issue at Hugh Millers Institute). Ongoing – still no reports but management of HMI has been transferred to Library Services. **Action - AP.**
13. (4.13 – Refresher resilience training planned for summer (late June or July)). Ongoing but urgent need for further emergency resilience funding to maintain the hall as an ERC. **Action – AP.**
14. (4.14 – KM to follow up the youth mentoring programme with Dom post exams). **Action – KM**
15. (4.15 – Retrieve funds held back by Di Agnew for repairs to TVH (Common Good) post AGM). Discharged as responsibilities for repairs being reassessed by THC. **Discharged.**
16. (4.16 – To chase Andrew Puls at THC re. self-seeding trees plus repairs to East Church (from Craig)). **Action C&DCC.**
17. (4.17 – Weed burning to be completed once weather improves). Ongoing. There is no funding for this, so no action is possible at this time. **On hold (NS).**
18. (4.18 – Paige to contact Lyndsey at THC to clarify some points regarding housing qualification for social housing poster). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
19. (4.19 – Continue to look into raising funds to replace gym equipment in The Victoria Park). Ongoing – reapproaching via the Community Regeneration Fund, were previously rejected. **Action – AP.**
20. (4.21 – Final discussions re. the website taking place with Alan and Andy). We are almost there! **Action – CF.**
21. (4.22 – To discuss action/how to approach THC re. the reason for toilet closure/community options etc). **Action – ALL.**
22. (4.23 – To give details to contact re. Hole at Pirates Graveyard so they can contact John Nightingale). Draft email to be approved by Paige and other contact. **Action – KM.**
23. (4.24 – PS to ask Di at THC who is responsible for the sign at the bus shelter). To email the new Ward Manager (Di now retired). **Action – PS.**
24. (4.25 – To email JN re. the repairs required to The Ladies Walk). Previous reason for AP being involved is no longer happening so someone else to take over. Ongoing. **Action – C&DCC.**
25. (4.26 – Emailed Dougie @ Highland Ferries to arrange a meeting). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
26. (4.27 - Construct response to Nairn CC re. Removal of vaccines from surgery). **Discharged.**
27. (4.32 – To speak to Denis (resident) re. Hedge options to see if he can offer advice on what we should order for the park). Ongoing. **Action – KM**
28. (4.33 – To discuss with AP where shouldn't be mowed at The Hugh Miller Monument so stakes can go in, and posters put up to stop THC). Ongoing. **Action – KM**

29. (4.34 – To continue to discuss with all three councillors re. The use of weed killer in the town, plus the ‘maintenance’ of the graveyards). Ongoing. **Action – PS**
30. (4.35 – To be the first to attend CCDT monthly meeting (first monday of the month). Further dates to be emailed to PS – **discharged**.)
31. (4.36 - To advise on the spare capacity of links usage before deciding the next steps re. Traders). Booking calendar sent out. Bookings made on application. For further discussion. Ongoing. **Action - PR**

## 5. Youth Issues

Dominic not present but no one aware there’s anything to report.

PS to reach out to DSL as he’s not attended a few meetings now – want to check everything is ok (presume just exam time, then summer holidays). **Action – PS.**

## 6. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s Report and accompanying notes plus a projected reserves document (**Appendix A, B & C**) were prepared by AP and circulated prior to the meeting.

Opened to AP for discussion, welcomed any questions.

### Projected figures:

All members agreed with the elections coming up in November that with the figures projected, no one is going to want to be a community councillor when it looks like councils as a whole will be insolvent by 2027. AP to share his report with other Community Councils – is aware they don’t all receive the same level of funding but good to hear all opinions.

No-one had any objections to this. Full support from all members. If a unified position from all community councils, plan to then approach THC - we *need* regular support. **Action – AP.**

Reeds loop funding – aware we will need to seek some more. Where is it going to come from? There will be atleast one more cut required for the season, so we need to raise some funds. Asked for help from SA. The Reeds Loop was refurbished in 2021 by Nature Scot (due to a successful application via CCDT). C&DCC agreed to maintain it while funding was available through THC but it’s not our responsibility. THC is responsible for upkeep of all core paths, of which the Reeds Loop is one. AP to email SA. **Action – AP.**

### Whereby:

Members discussed the reason for the subscription with Whereby coming to an end. AP explained that it was originally set up through a connection to the C&DCC, as it was in US dollars, which we claimed back from THC and then reimbursed resident in GBP. Have been trying to arrange the subscription direct through C&DCC for a while now, but THC have recently declined the support due to lack of available funds.

SA explained that there are three councillors now, so it was down to a majority vote but no other community councils were having their meeting costs funded and so that’s what it came down to – we need to find some way to host the meetings now that doesn’t cost money.

SA suggested applying for further ward discretion funding. There was also discussion about using the gritter auction funds. If teams works ok we might just continue to use this. To be monitored. **Action – ALL.**

*Hearsay – THC are rumoured to be borrowing money to cashflow/finance The Freeport. It might not be true, there has been no evidence to suggest this – but it is what people will think so was worth mentioning.*

There were no further comments or questions.

## 7. Victoria Hall (VH) Report including Youth Café

The Victoria Hall Report (**Appendix D**) that was prepared by AP, and the Youth Café Powerpoint presentation prepared by Fraser Thompson (**available on Cromarty Live**) were circulated prior to the meeting.

PS handed over to AP for comments/discussion.

### The Victoria Hall

The annual review of hall charges has been delayed until October due to new tenants, and higher heat and light costs so waiting a month will give more raw data to compare to.

As previously minuted, THC abolished the small halls grant without warning. The Open Gardens event in Cromarty donated £500 to TVH to help with costs for the next year. However, *all* members agreed that this should've come from THC.

The energy efficiency report is to be done soon. There are three parts to the survey:

- 1) Renewables – we know TVH isn't viable for this
- 2) Window/Door repairs – these will costs money which we need to fund from somewhere (community regeneration fund application will need to be done).
- 3) Insulation – this is the key to where we can make savings, no point repairing doors and windows with poor insulation. Have a specialist coming out to discuss.

### The Youth Café

Won the top award for the Best Voluntary Organisation across The Highlands. Will be presented with it at an awards ceremony at The Strathpeffer Pavillion (held by The Highland 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Interface).

Report from FT might be re-worded slightly. AP to confirm and will come back post meeting.

There were no further comments or questions.

## 8. Members' Reports

### 8.1 Portfolios

Portfolio Reports prepared by PR, PS, AT, NS and AP (**Appendix E-I**) were circulated prior to the meeting.

#### Andy:

Have received a further complaint from a resident. THC have agreed to do some independent monitoring at their most recent meeting. POCF have offered to pay for 50% of this, but as it has to be independent, THC cannot accept these funds.

Have made them aware that the level of noise frequency can affect everyone differently, so it is impossible to compare experiences. Highlights the importance of the requirement to collect data to be able to prove anything.

Discussion continued and all members agreed that any data is better than no data. KM to hand out leaflets to residents re. how to report noise complaints to allow us to collate data. Also suggested we make a noise map. It is believed that residents are too scared to come forward, and as volunteers we don't know what else we can do.

Nige:

Further to Nige's portfolio and the mention of the meeting between the C&DCC and The Harbour Trust: Some members from the C&DCC met with Harbour Trust Trustees, Colin Dickie and David Kent. The meeting was, at their request, un-minuted and we are awaiting a draft from them to help publicise what is happening at the Harbour.

There were no further comments or questions on any portfolio.

*Minute secretary note – Nige left at 9pm*

## 8.2 The Highland Council

Sarah reported:

- More parking is required, and a large space is required for this but she's not sure Cromarty has this kind of free space on offer.
- There is to be a visitor levy tourist tax consultation (Legislation to give local authorities the power to apply a visitor levy, or "tourist tax" will give councils the ability to add a tax to overnight accommodation, based on a percentage of the total costs). SA thinks the charge should come back to the communities.
- Has advised us that the ward discretionary fund has a much smaller budget than ever before, and the three councilors are to discuss what the priorities should be. SA advised she is going to suggest community councils are prioritized.

There were no further comments and SA was thanked for everything.

## 8.3 Correspondence Received

Nothing to note.

## 9. Black Isle Place Plan

The draft Outline Black Isle Place Plan document was sent round before the meeting by AP, who welcomed questions/comments.

AP asked for members to send across their opinions by Thursday as they will be taken to the meeting on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August. All members are happy to support the plan and would like to see if the technique will work.

10. **Inner Moray Firth Development Plan**

A reporter has been appointed to get things moving along. Have asked those who submitted comments in the first place to come back on them with any further contributions. Must be in by 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Cromarty Rising have been told that they can't comment as they didn't submit in the first place so have asked that we include some of their comments in our report. All members were in favour of this. AP to draft our submission and send it around. **Action – AP.**

11. **Any Other Business (continued)**

*11.2. Elephant Sessions – Music Festival plans for 2024*

As previously minuted, we were approached again by The Elephant Sessions looking for support in holding a festival on the Links early Autumn of 2024. PS emailed John Nightingale who said he'd be interested if the Community Council were to support it (as we have the voice of the community) so this brings us to further conversation. If we don't support it it won't go ahead. Discussion started and various things were considered.

Health & Safety, residents on the links, location, involvement of C&DCC, etc.

We would also need to speak to the residents we are in communication with re. the noise complaints in relation to Nigg, as it's very unlikely they'd be in support of the event.

It was mentioned that we could agree to hold the festival in a location close by, removing the need for The Links. ½ of the members were in support of the decision to hold the event, but in an alternative location, the other ½ of members weren't sure. As NS had left the meeting it was agreed that PS would speak to NS to seek his opinion on the matter, and email TES to see if they'd be open to a different location. We can then arrange a meeting to discuss things further, and advise John Nightingale of the outcome. **Action – PS.**

It's also important to note that this could mean we're passing a big chunk of work/voluntary involvement to different members, as the community council elections are occurring in November.

*11.3. Community Council Elections*

These are being held in November 2023. There is going to be a publicity campaign, AP is just pulling together the last few documents. Needs to be advertised before the next meeting.

There were no further comments or questions.

12. **Date of next meeting**

Next meeting – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 730pm.

PS thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 2155pm.



## APPENDIX A

### Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

1. **AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE/PAID IN ADVANCE** reflects Internet costs paid in advance plus the planning fee to be repaid by Stagecoach. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY.**
2. **WHEREBY MEETING COSTS** of £204, which were previously shown as receivable from THC (who had funded such costs previously) has now had to be restated as a C&DCC cost, after funding was refused with the following explanation – “This is due to the lack of available funds to support all organisations requesting the same budget heading, and it would be unfair to support one group but not others within the area.” **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **C&DCC PROJECTION OF FUTURE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND POSITION** Following recent confirmation that the C&DCC can no longer rely on the necessary funding to conduct its affairs, please find attached a projection of how this will impact on the Financial Position of the Community Council. Following discussion at our meeting, it is proposed that this information will be shared with other Black Isle Community Councils and solicit their support in approaching THC to remind them of their responsibilities, under the Establishment Scheme for Community Councils, to maintain effective elected community representation. **FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**
4. **OPEN GARDENS FUNDS** reflects the transfer of their Global Energy £1k donation to a personal account of the Open Gardens group. The group decided that all donations to ‘good causes’ were to be paid out in cash. Subsequent donations to the Victoria Hall and the Youth Cafe were then paid back in to the relevant bank account. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
5. **COMMUNITY AMENITIES FUND** reflects further payments for maintenance of the Reeds Loop Path. This funding is now exhausted so any further maintenance must seek new funding. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton  
26/08/23

**APPENDIX B**  
**Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report**

<b>Statement of Financial Position at 28th August 2023</b>				
		£	£	£
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 26/06/23</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 26th August 2023		10,723.52	-1,152.50	11,876.02
Paypal Balance as at 26th August 2023		0.00	0.00	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		193.20	-204.00	397.20
Amounts Payable		-45.00	-45.00	0.00
<b>Total Net Assets at 26th August 2023</b>		<b>£10,871.72</b>	<b>-1,401.50</b>	<b>£12,273.22</b>
		£	£	£
<b>Represented by:</b>				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2023		2,093.28	0.00	2,093.28
Surplus/ <b>Deficit</b> for the year to date		<b>-583.50</b>	<b>-295.84</b>	<b>-287.66</b>
		1,509.78	-295.84	1,805.62
Community Amenities Fund		0.00	-161.60	161.60
Emergency Resilience Fund		0.00	6.53	<b>-6.53</b>
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2023		211.75	0.00	211.75
Gritting Fund		574.32	0.00	574.32
Cromarty Live Fund		46.01	0.00	46.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,016.39	0.00	1,016.39
<b>Net C&amp;DCC Reserves</b>		<b>3,358.25</b>	<b>-450.91</b>	<b>3,809.16</b>
<b>Community Event Funds</b>	<b>£</b>			
Bonfire Night Fund	2,302.14		0.00	2,302.14
Gala Fund	2,677.70		0.00	2,677.70
Splash & Dash Fund	126.00	5,105.84	0.00	126.00
Open Gardens Fund	206.86		-1,000.00	1,206.86
Gluren bij de Buren Fund	202.06	408.92	0.00	202.06
<b>Designated Community Funds</b>				
West Church Playgroup Fund		1,485.29	49.41	1,435.88
Cromarty Rising Fund		513.42	0.00	513.42
		<b>£10,871.72</b>	<b>-1,401.50</b>	<b>£12,273.22</b>
Alan Plampton 26th August 2023				

**APPENDIX C**  
**Agenda Item 6 – Projected Figures**

Reserves at 1st April 2023		£ 2,093.28
Meeting Costs unfunded by THC		£ -204.00
Restated Reserves at 1st April 2024		£ 1,889.28
<b>Annual Income/Costs</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grant	472.07	
Insurance	-202.78	
Minutes	-500.00	
Internet	-100.00	
PPS	-40.00	
Sundry	-75.00	
Subs	-35.00	-480.71
		2023/4 FP Deficit - £ -480.71
		Reserves @ 31/03/24 - £ 1,408.57
		2024/5 FP Deficit - £ -480.71
		Reserves @ 31/03/25 - £ 927.86
		2025/6 FP Deficit - £ -480.71
		Reserves @ 31/03/26 - £ 447.15
		2026/7 FP Deficit - £ -480.71
		<b>Reserves Deficit @ 31/03/27 - £ -33.56</b>
<b>Cromarty &amp; District Community Council</b>		
<b>become insolvent by 31st March 2027</b>		

## APPENDIX D

### Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Bookings** - Transfer of the West Church users is now complete with History Society, Table Tennis and Playgroup all now booked in, and their equipment accommodated. The Booking Fees review planned for 1<sup>st</sup> September will now be conducted by 1<sup>st</sup> October because we will then have more relevant data to use in calculating potential increases in charges. **ACTION – Information only, no action required.**
2. **Repairs & Maintenance** - A survey of the Oil Boiler is scheduled in the next fortnight. **AC-TION – Information only, no action required.**
3. **Youth Café** - The monthly report including the Summer Programme, is attached. The latest report is always available on [Cromarty Live](#). We have successfully recruited a new, 5hr per week, Assistant Youth Worker. Michelle Jack has been given a 12 month contract from 3<sup>rd</sup> July. She has been very busy with the Summer Programme and has already successfully completed much of the training planned. Her PVG has also been updated. Thank you to Paige, Vivienne and Orlagh for their excellent interviewing work. **ACTION – Information only, no action required.**

Alan Plampton - VHMC  
26/08/23

**APPENDIX E**  
**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Peter Ratcliffe**

**This Report is a Combination of Historical (Past History) and as an Update.**

**Cromarty Ferry.**

The Ferry Service continues with Summer Service on a shuttling basis. There was a temporary lull due to mechanical problems and spare parts needed. As ever Highland Ferries, the Operator, led by Douglas Robertson, arranged for quick resumption of service, with notice given out publicly and the ferry is now running again. This Ferry Service is very successful, well appreciated and is well used by holidaymakers, with many choosing their route based on using the Ferry Service. Google Maps also uses the Cromarty to Nigg ferry service on its mapping system.

**Dog Fouling. (Overall). Ongoing.**

There are still instances, however, the green town bins are being used for disposal of the bags. We can but hope, watch and observe! [ **Ongoing**]

**Links & Links Events Diary / Beaches and Litter.**

- Bookings have been successful to date, well managed by the users and without incident.
- The next booking is for the Cromarty Rowing Club on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Vehicular access to The Links still partially closed and locked, by Community and C&DCC decision. However, there are two removable stanchions at the Cinema end that can be removed at time of emergency to allow access, also there is more than one key to the padlock at the East End (**no change**).
- The area in front of Bob Maclean’s house (old ice rink) is marked off by permanent embedded wooden bollards, and large stones to stop parking and to let the grass, trees and wild flowers grow. Mainly donated by a local resident, (Fran Sadler); all flower seeds and plants gratefully received. [**Ongoing – and looking good**]
- The 2 Dog Waste Bins on the Links continue to be emptied, by Craig Fraser, by others, and myself. There have been no noticeable incidents. Photographic records kept.
- There is an old wooden bench, actually up on Braehead, that needs to be repaired or replaced. [had various comments on Facebook but no positive action taken to date, and no action by others. Need to sort out ownership?]. Did not approach Avoch men’s shed yet. (**No Change**)

**Litter.**

- Highland Council had removed a number of bins. Town Bins continue to be being monitored and recorded. The Main Town bins continue to be emptied on Tuesdays, Commercial Bin Day (no change – ongoing).
- As we are now in the Summer Season, the current situation is being reassessed and an approach was not yet made to The Highland Council Department for restoration of the refuse bins to the previous numbers.
- Sutor Creek management continue to arrange for a number of bins in the harbour area to be “topped off” to reduce the level of debris such as pizza boxes in the Town Bins.
- Highland Council had changed the type of Town Bin in a number of cases to those with restricted opening. This is causing issues, as to the size of deposits. (e.g. Pizza Boxes), with take away food-stuffs. Survey of the bins was updated. Highland Council did not get increased “**Visitor Management**” **Budget**, but still have operative working, with transport, in Cromarty.
- The Bins which are most at issue (Due to takeaway food/motorhomes/other rubbish) are:-
  - The Harbour Area (currently reduced to 1 bin)/The Cinema Area/The Toilets Bin/The Bins on Shore Street in the vicinity of “Old Fish Store” (date stamped photos are available). We also have an issue with the sole rubbish bin at the Sutor Car Park getting emptied. [But this was previously emptied by THC (Highland Council) Operative & would depend on the available THC budget].

- Local volunteers, and some from out of town, continue to uplift litter and dump in the Town Bins. (Cromarty Litter Pickers – some equipment had been distributed previously.)
- Some small additional tools and equipment were stored in The Sheddie, to be distributed, and to be used by litter expeditions, such as local projects. (Old News)

### **PoCF, Nigg Liaison, Rig Noise & Freeport Proposal.**

Nigg Liaison Meetings – Currently virtual Meetings, by Teams attended by Andy Thurgood, Kari Magee and self.

PoCF - Emails being received regarding next Community Meetings with PoCF, next a physical meeting at the POCF Offices in Invergordon on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal – Opportunity Cromarty Firth are now Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Freeport. (No Change.)

Noise Complaints – handled by Andy Thurgood and Kari Magee.

Green Hydrogen Processing Plant – according to news comments, Twitter etc, planning and preparations continue. No further news.

Global Energy have planning application submitted for a new Cable Manufacturing Plant at the Nigg Site. Public Meetings were held and attended. No decision on their planning application is as yet available. (No change)

The existing Tank Farm, that was used for the Beatrice Oli Field, is proposed to be demolished. Await confirmation of action, but not expected to affect Cromarty.

There has been no further information given on the proposed Green Hydrogen Processing Plant, e.g. how will the processed hydrogen be transported to the proposed processing plant, by pipeline or tanker? If by tanker it raises the question of increased shipping traffic past Cromarty. (Old News)

### **Gritting and Machine Maintenance.**

The gritter equipment has been cleaned and hung up in The Sheddie for the summer season. A further 5 no. grit bins had been supplied by Highland Council and were located around the town as required. The principle being for the members of the community to have access to grit for their use, to improve better Community Effort. (This should continue next Winter.)

An updated Survey is required to be done on the Grit Bins, with an updated map.

There was a snow brushing machine/plough donated to the town by Simon and Jenny Gunn. After further discussion at the last C&DCC Meeting the machine will be relocated, thanks to our Minute Secretary, Claire Fraser. (Old News)

The matter of selling the equipment was discussed at a previous C&DCC meeting. Following that I had a discussion with Mrs Jenny Gunn, who had no objection to C&DCC selling the equipment and using the monies raised for a Community Good Cause.

No information on the progress on the water supply for rinsing the units at the Sheddie? (Ongoing) (The gritters were previously taken to Allan Square for washing by self).

### **Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.**

#### **Ongoing.**

Red Bins (6) are being emptied on a regular basis both by some volunteers, and the Highland Council Operative, with regular checking those at:-

The Links (2); The Reeds Walk Path; Cromarty Bowling Club Car Park; Stroopie Roadie, The Denny.

The Links ones are done regularly, mainly by Craig Fraser. The Denny one is emptied. The Reeds Walk and Bowling Green Car Park ones are emptied, mainly by myself. (Sometimes advised as full by Jeremy Price). The Stroopie Roadie one is also emptied. There was no rota raised, following email traffic, the principle being that the bins which are nearby would be emptied. However, I will redo an email for transmission hopefully for volunteers? (Not yet done).

Dog waste continues to be dumped in town bins, I do check, and it is reassuring that those concerned do this in most cases, rather than leave lying on the ground or around, except for the occasional time. Though I am sure that people rely on the bins (all types) being available. The industrial town bins are emptied on a Tuesday and all this waste also goes to landfill.

### **Sutor Car Park.**

No changes recently.

Sutor Litter bin was being monitored by Nige (on his daily walks) and is being previously emptied by visiting THC Operative worker.

### **Previous Craig Fraser Projects – From 2021:- ( Ongoing.)**

#### **Gaelic Chapel. [ No change – ongoing.]**

Previous virtual Meeting had been held. Craig had raised and discussed the Land Ownership documents from Land Sassines, to be reviewed. (No change). The main scope required is for clarification on the actual ownership of the building.

Site visited and stage photos taken. The bell is currently still in situ.

There had been signs of the area being used and visited. (By Teenagers?) [ No change].

#### **Graveyards in General. No. 1,2,3,4. (No change – ongoing.)**

Consideration to be given to vegetation clearing and review of work carried out by Highland Council. The grass cutting issue, Cromarty “Meadows”, was raised at the previous C&DCC Meeting.

#### **Consideration on Dead Trees at Side of Road on The Denny.**

Previously, the Trees have been commented on for safety reasons – issue needs to be reviewed and revisited. I have taken photos of most of the trees and will prepare a work package.

I have checked and most of the trees are on the Kirky Brae, which is apparently Common Good Land and thus under the auspices of the Highland Council.

### **A.O.C.B.**

#### **E.V. Charging points.**

Project is being carried out by CCDT.

#### **Cromarty Benches.**

Survey needs to be updated.

No progress on the dilapidated bench on Braehead whether it is to be renovated or replaced?

#### **Relocation of the Bus Stop Shelter on The Links.**

##### **Current:-**

Planning application was approved for the application. Work has started and is in progress.

Progress photos have been taken.

Mary Peteranna (Salmon Bothy owner) had offered to assist with arranging with the renovation of the local guide notice. I have asked about ownership of the existing notice, with no confirmation to date. Also, enquired what progress has been made on the replacement Cromarty sign for the Shore Road (this could be included). (No Change).

#### **Cromarty Streets.**

Mr. Colin Dunn, Duke Street, had sent an email asking when the two missing cover plates, 1 at Allan Square/Denoon Place and 1 at The Denny are to be replaced by Highland Council. An email with photos was sent to THC Roads Department Manager for review and resolution. There has been no response as yet. Colin had used the T.H.C. Procedure with action number without success, but I did not. I have sent a follow up email. The email was commented on, as now being the responsibility of Scottish Water, but the work is not yet complete.

I will need to follow this up with preferably co-ordinates. But we are looking for confirmation that they would be replaced/fixed. (**Ongoing** – no further action has been taken)

**Other Meetings. (Previously Reported On.)**

Since the last C&DCC Meeting.





There is one in Inverness Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August on the Freeport.

**Attachments:-**

None at this time.



**APPENDIX E**  
**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Paige Shepherd**

<p><u>Planning</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Installation of solar panels</a> </li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>1 Forsyth Place Cromarty IV11 8XW          Ref. No: 23/03748/FUL   Received: Fri 04 Aug 2023   Validated: Thu 17 Aug 2023   Status: Under Consideration</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Erection of house and garage</a> </li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Land 30M SW Of Kenavara House Cromarty Mains Cromarty          Ref. No: 23/03369/PIP   Received: Mon 17 Jul 2023   Validated: Mon 17 Jul 2023   Status: Under Consideration</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Erection of house</a> </li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Land 20M East Of Public Toilets Allan Square Cromarty          Ref. No: 23/03290/FUL   Received: Tue 11 Jul 2023   Validated: Wed 12 Jul 2023   Status: Under Consideration</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Erection of porch and garden room</a> </li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>The Old Manse Causeway Cromarty IV11 8XJ          Ref. No: 23/03024/FUL   Received: Mon 26 Jun 2023   Validated: Mon 26 Jun 2023   Status: Under Consideration</p> </div>
<p><u>Letter to Business'</u></p>	<p>I have attached the final copy of the letter to Cromarty Business' regarding the job board. If members are happy, I will distribute.</p>
<p><u>Cromarty Music Festival</u></p>	<p>John Nightingale has been in touch regarding the event with Smilie Music. This will be discussed at the meeting as John wants the support of the community council</p>
<p><u>Cromarty Harbour</u></p>	<p>I have been contacted by several locals regarding the closure of the gate at the harbour. I have emailed the Harbour Trust for clarification.</p>
<p><u>Meeting Platform</u></p>	<p>Discussion to be had on if we are continuing sthe blended meetings and if we are, which platform we are going to use going forward.</p>

**APPENDIX G**  
**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Andy Thurgood**

**Meetings Attended**

29<sup>th</sup> June:

Peter Ratcliffe and I attend the Joint Community Councils Liaison meeting at POCF offices in Invergordon. The noise complaint that led to the (temporary) suspension of cruise liner horns was discussed within the forum, as well as the community backlash on social media towards the complainant, and consequences experienced by POCF.

It was agreed that lessons have been learned resulting from the handling of the complaint.

Community Councils were asked to confirm their position with regards to the sounding of -cruise liner horns, and all agreed that this should continue.

The later part of the meeting consisted of a review of the West Quay area of the Port, with the viewing of the monopiles that are currently stored there, from the Pilot vessel, Dalmore. The piles will form the bases for the next generation of turbines, as the sector sees an increase in the size of these.

17<sup>th</sup> August:

POCF hosted the Cromarty Noise Review meeting at Invergordon.

Paige Shepherd and I met with Alex Johnson and Joanne Allday (POCF), Rory Gunn (PON/GEG) and Clifford Smith (THC EHO). This was the third meeting to review management of noise, and in particular, Low Frequency Noise (LFN) that affects members of our community.

Key points discussed and arising from the meeting were:

- Complaints since the last meeting were reviewed, and Cromarty community expectations expressed.
- Agreed with the THC EHO, that noise levels/pressure, in combination, at the receptor, are the critical measurements that should be monitored.
- THC identified that they will be financing independent noise monitoring at multiple locations in Cromarty; this will cover Low Frequency Noise (LFN), and be outsourced to an independent specialist contractor.
- POCF offered to 50% fund this monitoring, but to keep the monitoring independent, this has been declined by THC.
- Enhanced community engagement and communication was discussed, with an opportunity for POCF and PON to feed into the Cromarty Newsletter. Both parties are keen to understand the level of information that would be of interest to the community.
- There was discussion on GDPR requirements amongst the Group, around the way knowledge of community complaints are shared between parties in the Group. Not only is this important from the GDPR perspective, but it is critical to protecting complainants in the community from community backlash, through channels such as Facebook. POCF to investigate and feedback on this.
- Support for the Cromarty community was acknowledged by CDCC for the sponsorship that POCF is about to provide to the Cromarty Youth Cafe, and that PON/GEG has provided for the Cromarty Open Gardens and Cromarty Bowls Club.
- Enquest Producer will be berthed until least the end of the year, and probably beyond. As a FPSO it has only served 5 years of a predicted 25 year life cycle. As an asset, Enquest are keen for it to be repurposed (and to recover their costs) and this contributes to extended berthing, as potential interested parties can review their options for a potential acquisition.
- CDCC asked THC how they would regulate the Environmental Aspects and Impacts Registers (EAIR) for those parties operating in the Firth, with regards to the effects of combination effect LFN. THC stated that they would regulate for single source emissions, unless there was a complaint related to a combination effect e.g. a rig in combination with Port activities, that could be upheld, at which point

the EAIR would need to record combination effects.

- CDCC confirmed with THC that EAIR should be based on, and would be regulated on worst case scenario.
- Allocation of anchorages as a mitigation for noise was reviewed, along with associated costs of anchorage surveys.
- Onshore power options were discussed with regards to cabling vessels that would support the expansion of PON and the proposed cabling plant. These types of cabling vessels are currently undertaking activities at PON, and there has not been any complaint related to LFN that has coincided with these particular vessels.

Andy Thurgood  
27/08/23

**APPENDIX H**  
**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nigel Shapcott**

**Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)**

A substantial meeting was held between CDCC members and the Harbour Trust which others will report on as I was unable to be present.

**Reeds Loop Path**

Mowing has continued and was inspected on 25/08/2023 as satisfactory.

**Cromarty Care Project (CCP)**

1. Seagull Trust Cruises - one has happened much to the enjoyment of all concerned.
2. Trikes are available for trips around Cromarty - now in the Sheddie which makes it much more convenient. Thanks to CDCC members for repairs to the Sheddie.
3. Table Tennis continues on a Monday morning now at the Victoria Hall.
4. Callout for Carers - Need for more local carers - please consider even if only for a few hours per week. As before.
5. The Community Larder continues.
6. Nigel Shapcott has resigned as a Trustee of CCP.

**Grants:**

No information at present.

END

**APPENDIX I**  
**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton**

1. **BICC** Final draft of Black Isle Place Plan now circulated (see Agenda Item 9). Paige and Alan attending BICC meeting to discuss with BICC on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Next full BICC meeting scheduled for September to be hosted by Knockbain CC. **ACTION – Information only, no action required.**
2. **Housing** There are no official updates other than our need for a response to IMFDP under Agenda Item 10. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 26/08/23